

JUL 19 2005

003/016

PATENT  
450100-3752.1**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

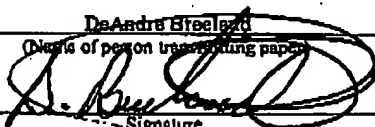
Applicants : Hiroaki Kitano, et al.  
Serial No. : 09/910,288  
For : INFORMATION RETRIEVAL APPARATUS AND  
METHOD  
Filed : July 20, 2001  
Examiner : Steven HD Nguyen  
Art Unit : 2665

745 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10151

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Signature

July 19, 2005  
Date of Signature

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on April 19, 2005, having a three-month statutory period for response set to expire on July 19, 2005, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-captioned application as follows.